

Ohio's forest land area totals 8 million acres and occupies 30 percent of the State's total area. 96% of Ohio's forest are private land owners and 4% is publicly owned (i.e. state forests, national forest, etc.)

Hunting is a vital wildlife management tool. It keeps nature at a healthy balance of which the available habitat can support (carrying capacity). Hunting also helps to maintain populations at levels compatible with human activity and land use. Species like deer and turkey have natural predators, however due to Ohio's ownership pattern of forests, these predators can no longer do enough to control the natural population of the species. Hunting is necessary to keep the species at a reasonable level.

If left unchecked, these species would continue to reproduce and multiply, which would throw off entire ecosystems. Enlarged wildlife populations may lead to a reduced carrying capacity (reduction of habitat that wildlife need to survive), which would lead to these species to further encroach into urban areas where hunting may not be allowed or at least limited opportunity.